Rehabilitation Council

999. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:
SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to give statutory status to the Rehabilitation Council; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Rehabilitation Council of India Bill 1992, has been introduced in Rajya Sabha on 6-3-92.

Old People in the Country

1000. SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:
DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:

Will the Minister of WELFRAE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number and percentage of old people in the country as per 1991 census;

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide old age pension to all the old people;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a- Projected population of old people in the country in 1991 is estimated at 5.48 crores which comes to 6.49 per cent of the total population of 84.39 crores as per 1991 Census.

(b) Old age pension comes under the purview of the State Government, All states and Union Territories are providing old age pension to the elderly (60) out of their own funds at different rates and coverage depending on resource position of each State/U.T.

At present, there is no proposal to provide old age pension to all the old people due to resource constraints of the States;

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Rai Sikhs in Punjab

1001. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to the Unstarred Question 705 given in the Rajya Sabha on 13th March, 1992 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the notification issued by the revenue department Chandigarh (Government of Punjab) on 1st December, 1969 which was addressed to all the disrict and session Judges in Punjab vide endorsement No. 5299-J dated 10th December, 1969;

(b) whether it is a fact that the above notification says that the 'Mahatamas' and 'Rai Sikhs' are substitutable; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not extending the facilities and benefits given to scheduled tribes to the 'Rai Sikhs' in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The above notification was issued in respect of Vimukat Jatis (Denotified Tribes) which have not been specified as Scheduled Tribes in Punjab. The provisions of Article 342 of the Constitution have not yet been invoked in relation to Punjab.

National Conference of SC/ST M.Ps.

1002. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had received the resolutions passed in the National Confe-